



INSPECTION REPORT: KENSINGTON GOLD MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd
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Date of Inspection: Wednesday December 18, 2019
Date of Report: Monday January 6, 2020
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Richard Dudek

Ranger District: Juneau Ranger District

Weather Conditions: Fog with a mix of snow and rain. Temperature: High 30's °F.

Exploration in accordance with operating plan	Not Applicable
Timber removal following timber sale contract	Not Applicable
BMPs for erosion control	Satisfactory
Water Quality BMPs	Satisfactory
Public safety & fire prevention	Satisfactory
Reclamation work adequate and timely	Satisfactory
Roads maintenance adequate and current	Satisfactory
Tails placement in accordance with plan	Satisfactory
Waste Rock placement in compliance	Satisfactory
Company supervision of operation	Satisfactory
Operating in a clean and orderly manner	Satisfactory

Any conditions noted as UNSATISFACTORY will require follow up action by the Mine Inspector and a written memorandum to the operator, outlining the necessary work.

NEW REMARKS

Coeur Alaska provided transportation to and from site.

Kevin Eppers (Sr. Environmental Manager, Coeur Alaska) and Christopher Salazar (Environmental Technician) accompanied Richard Dudek (Geologist, United States Forest Service (USFS)).

This inspection included the Access roads, Comet Development Pile, Comet Water Treatment Plant (CTWP), Sherman Creek Outfall 001, mill bench, Pit 4, the TTF area, the cold storage facility, and the fuel depot.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **No actions items were observed during the inspection.**

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS: Coeur personnel are in the final stages of removing the diesel contaminated soils associated with the old generators and shipping them off site for disposal.

ACCESS ROADS

During the inspection, the access roads were in adequate condition (2016 BMP Plan; Table 4-4). During the winter months Surface Operations apply pea gravel to the roads to help with traction.



COMET DEVELOPMENT PILE

No recent activity at this location.

COMET WATER TREATMENT PLANT (CWTP)

On 12/18/2019, the CWTP was treating 1,675 gallons per minute (gpm). Pond 1 was receiving mine site water (Photo 1). Pond 2 was receiving back wash from the water treatment plant (Photo 2).

CWTP personnel recently installed a new waterline from the pump house for treatment plant #1 to the clarifier (Photo 3).

White material was observed on the clean test rock used for monitoring its accumulation (Photo 4). Personnel at the CWTP continue to use calcium chloride (CaCl_2) to help remove white material out of solution.

SHERMAN CREEK OUTFALL

White material was observed on the rocks in the creek bed (Photo 5).

KENSINGTON MILL BENCH

Coeur personnel is almost completed with the removal of the diesel contaminated soils from where the decommissioned generators were located (Photo 6).

PIT 4

The pug plant is currently offline for the winter months (Photo 7). A drain (Photo 8) for Pit 4's settling pond that is located next to the road for the x-ray sorter is clogged and will eventually need to be cleaned out.

TAILINGS TREATMENT FACILITY (TTF) AREA

The TTF is mostly frozen over and covered in snow. The TTF's recorded water level on 12/18/2019 was 710.65 feet (Photos 9-10).

At the time of this inspection, water treatment plant personnel finished replacing a pump for chemical reagents used for the treatment process.

After the most recent bathymetry survey, the tailings barge was moved to the north section of the TTF (Photo 11) to facilitate filling in deeper sections within that part of the facility.

The dam spillway and the effluent spillway were functioning as intended.

There northern TTF, and the laydown area were covered in snow and ice (Photo 12).

The water treatment plant was discharging approximately 1,300-gpm to the effluent spillway, and the withdrawal rate from the Upper Slate Lake (USL) bypass was 580-gpm.

The seep plant was offline during this inspection.

"Good housekeeping" practices were observed at the TTF water treatment plant (Appendix 4g BMP Plan; Table 4-1).



COLD STORAGE FACILITY

The facility was tidy and in order (Photo 13).

FUEL DEPOT

There were no observed fuel leaks, sheening, and/or spills at the facility (Photos 14-15).

FOLLOW UP ITEMS:

Inspect the access roads.

Inspect the Comet water treatment plant and settling ponds.

Inspect for white material in Sherman Creek.

Inspect the TTF area.

PHOTOS (Additional photos available upon request)



Photo 1. Comet water treatment plant's Pond 1.



Photo 2. The Comet water treatment plant's Pond 2.



Photo 3. The new waterline installed from the clarifier to the pump house for treatment plant #1



Photo 1. The CWTP's test/observation rock for white material accumulation.



Photo 2. White material observed in the creek (outfall 001).



Photo 3. Recent snow covering the location of the old generators where the diesel contaminated soils were removed.



Photo 4. Pug plant at pit 4.



Photo 5. A clogged drain for pit 4's settling pond.

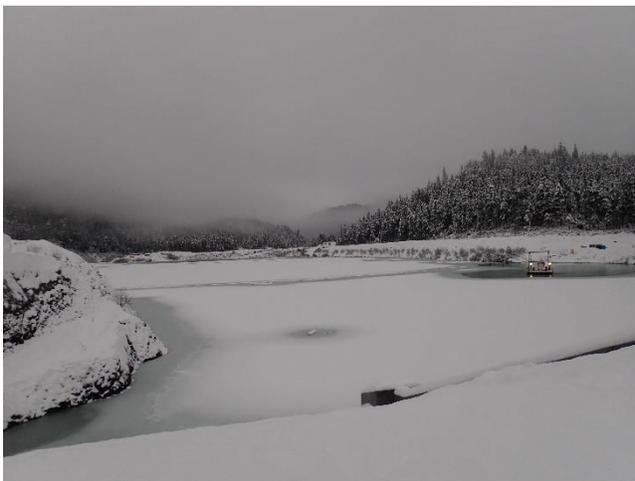


Photo 6. The TTF.



Photo 10. The reclaim barge for the TTF recycles water (200-gpm) from the TTF to the mill. This is also the location where the TTF's daily water level is recorded.



Photo 11. The TTF's tailings placement barge.



Photo 12. The northern TTF area.



Photo 13. Cold storage facility.



Photo 14. The fuel depot.



Photo 15. The fuel depot's refueling pad.

Thanks to Kensington Mine for a safe visit.
U.S. Forest Service Officer: /s/ Richard Dudek
